

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062427
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TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 1979 PROGRAM PROPOSALS

REF: DOCUMENT ENV(78) 8

1. REF DOCUMENT WAS TRANSMITTED TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS UNDER COVER OF A RODERICK LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 6. DUE TO LATE RECEIPT (FEB. 22), WE UNABLE TO GET COMMENTS TO SECRETARIAT BY MARCH 6 AS REQUESTED. WE UNDERSTAND SECRETARIAT PLANS MEET WITH PERMANENT DELEGATIONS MARCH 13, AND PROVIDE MISSION WITH FOLLOWING COMMENTS FOR ITS USE
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PAGE 02 STATE 062427

IN SUCH A SESSION.

-- WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE SEEING COMMITTEE PROJECTS DESCRIBED USING THE NEW FORMAT. IT SUCCEEDS IN PRESENTING CLEAR, CONCISE PICTURE OF KEY ELEMENTS AND WE URGE IT BE CONTINUED.

-- AT SAME TIME, THE UTILITY OF THE NEW FORMAT IS SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED BY THE OMISSION OF DATA ON MANPOWER ALLOCATED TO EACH PROJECT. (THE COMMITTEE URGED, AND THE ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE AGREED, THAT SUCH INFORMATION BE INCLUDED. HOWEVER, RODERICK CLAIMS THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO PROVIDE THE DATA. IF MISSION CAN CONFIRM

THIS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ITS ADVICE CONCERNING A POSSIBLE HIGHER LEVEL REPRESENTATION. SUCH INFORMATION - WHICH WE HAVE OBTAINED IN THE PAST - IS CRITICAL TO ASSESSING TRADE-OFFS AMONG, AND CHANGES IN SIZE OF, PROJECTS.)

-- CONCERNING GENERAL THRUST OF PROGRAM, WE ARE FRUSTRATED AT INFLEXIBILITY CONCERNING NEW PROJECTS (ONLY ONE IS PROPOSED). WE AGREE WITH COMMITTEE CONSENSUS ON NEED TO BEEF UP CHEMICALS WORK. HOWEVER, WE ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORT CONSENSUS THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OUTSIDE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE BUDGET FOR SUCH EXPANDED WORK, RATHER THAN SEE REST OF PROGRAM SO OBVIOUSLY SQUEEZED. WE EXPECT THAT BY LATE APRIL SECRETARIAT (AND INTERESTED MEMBERS) WILL HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLVING THIS PROBLEM.

-- ANOTHER WAY IN WHICH SOME RESOURCES COULD BE FREED FOR NEW WORK WOULD BE TO (A) COMBINE CERTAIN OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS AND/OR (B) REDUCE OR ELIMINATE ONE OR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 062427

MORE.

(A): PROJECTS 3.5 AND 3.6 MIGHT LEND THEMSELVES TO COMBINATION IN 1979, FREEING SOME RESOURCES. (IT IS OF COURSE HARD TO KNOW HOW MUCH SINCE NO MAN-YEAR FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE.) ALSO, PROJECTS 5.1, 5.2 AND 5.3 DEFINITELY CONTAIN A DEGREE OF OVERLAP, WHICH MIGHT BE RATIONALIZED.

(B): AS WE HAVE STATED BEFORE, WE CONTINUE TO WONDER ABOUT THE UTILITY OF THE PROJECT DESCRIBED UNDER 3.2, AND KNOW SOME OTHER COUNTRIES (E.G., CANADA) SHARE OUR SCEPTICISM. CONCERNING PROJECTS 4.1 AND 4.2, WE ASSUME THEY STILL CARRY EXCESSIVE MANPOWER ALLOCATIONS - ESPECIALLY 4.1 WHICH THE TFP GROUP CLEARLY WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT. CONCERNING PROJECT 5.6, DO NOT BELIEVE THE COMMITTEE NEEDS TACKLE THE ISSUE SEPARATELY UNLESS ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE RESOURCES ARE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE CHEMICALS WORK. THE PROJECT OUTLINED IN 5.7 INCLUDES THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF 5.6 IN ANY CASE.

-- ASSUMING ROOM IS EVENTUALLY MADE IN THE PROGRAM FOR

ADDITIONAL NEW PROJECTS, WE VERY MUCH SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER OF PRIORITY):

- DIFFUSE SOURCES OF POLLUTION
- CONTROL OF TOXICS IN THE ATMOSPHERE
- LONG-TERM FUTURE FOR THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT (WE NOTE THAT THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN IN ENV(78)8 IS NOT EXACTLY WHAT THE URBAN GROUP AGREED ON)
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN URBAN PLANNING
- WATER CONSERVATION POLICIES AND WATER PRICING

(NOTE: JUST AS IN THE CHEMICALS AREA, ANY NEW URBAN ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT BE RECOMMENDED AS A RESULT OF THE VANCE URBAN INITIATIVE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 062427

NEW RESOURCES, AND NOT COME AT THE EXPENSE OF ONGOING PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.) VANCE

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